

The L I N K

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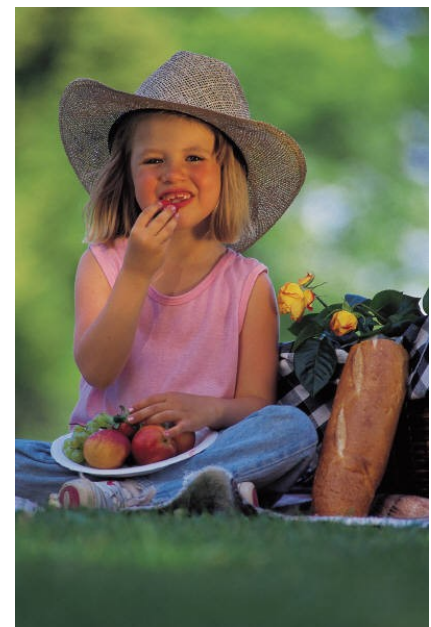
- > Early Intervention
- > CEDARR Family Centers
- > Community Partners that Serve Children with Special Healthcare Needs and their Families



“Back to the Basics” For Lots of Summer Fun

School is out and summer has arrived. What will you do with your children this summer? Many families are thinking hard about summer vacation activities. What kind of fun can a family have for little or no money? Well, this might be a great time to take advantage of what we have nearby. By going back to the basics, families can rediscover lots of activities to entertain the entire family.

On the following page are some ideas and tips for fun and safe outdoor activities for your child and family.



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Finding Age Appropriate Activities

As parents, especially those of children with special needs, we are always seeking activities that stimulate our children's development. Following are some ideas that will not only offer great opportunities for development, but also be lots of fun.

Infants

Infants are exploring with all of their senses. These little ones need plenty of opportunity to look at new things from a variety of perspectives. They need places to crawl, things to touch, and places that have interesting things to look at.

Because of their size, we need to be sure that infants are in an area free of excess wind and sun (umbrellas at the beach and at parks work well!). It is important to find an area large enough to explore safely, and a place to nap while older siblings continue to play.

Toddlers

Toddlers are movers! They're gross motor development is taking charge as they explore how their bodies move and interact with the environment. Toddlers begin to explore how to use the playground equipment (with supervision of course!) and how to navigate their bodies on different surfaces (grass, sand, gravel, pavement, etc.). Toddlers are becoming increasingly social little people and like to be in outdoor environments that have other children to play with. Language skills are emerging and places and activities that are rich in things to look at and do (zoo, beach, etc) provide toddlers with new and interesting vocabulary.

Preschoolers

Preschoolers are curious children who are ready for more complex outdoor activities and experiences. Preschoolers need lots of room to run, climb, jump, hop, play with balls and riding toys, and places to use their imagination.

Preschoolers also enjoy bringing inside activities (such as blocks, reading, painting) into the outdoors for new experiences. Be sure to talk with your preschoolers about their outdoor activities and listen to their recollection of the experience. Working in the garden is a wonderful way for preschoolers to release some physical energy, learn about how things grow, and create a sense of pride for their efforts.

Primary School Age Children

Primary school age children need a mixture of high physical activity with times for quiet activity. Parents need to encourage children to have a balance between the two as to avoid prolonged periods of inactivity. Both of these can be achieved within outdoor activities. Swimming is just as enjoyable as reading a good book under a shaded tree. Primary children also engage in more elaborate pretend play (tree houses, forts, clubs), and may want to try their hand at a lemonade stand or another form of entrepreneurship.

No matter what you choose, consider as many outdoor activities as possibly as they have a variety of positive benefits for children of all ages. Among the benefits of enjoying activities in the outdoors are:

- Provide children with an opportunity to experience and interact in different environments
- Provides children the opportunity to meet and socialize with new people and friends
- Provides new and rich sensory and perceptual experiences that support a child's cognitive and overall motor development
- Provides an opportunity for children to learn to care for the environment
- Provides children with more opportunities to participate in physical activity

So get out there and have fun this summer in the great outdoors!



Ideas For Outdoor Fun

Looking for something to do? Give one of these ideas a try.

Bicycling
Swimming
Fishing
Theme Parks
Museums
Parks
Playgrounds
Zoo
Hiking/Nature Walks
Fairs
Art Festivals
Parades
Summer Camps
Camping
Bird Watching
Boating
Gardening

Building a Fort
Having a Campfire in the
Backyard (even if it's pretend)
Painting/Art activities (mudpies!)
Collecting things (shells, rocks,
insects, flowers)
Playing and Swimming at
the Beach

Links to Outdoor Activities in Rhode Island

Visit Rhode Island: What to do/Events

<http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/what-to-do/events/>

Biking and Hiking Trails in Rhode Island:

<http://www.trails.com/findarea.aspx?state=RI>

Rhode Island State Parks Website

<http://www.riparks.com/>

Rhode Island Beaches

<http://www.visitrhodeisland.com/what-to-do/beaches/>

Rhode Island Family Guide Online

<http://www.rifamilyguide.com/>

Fun outdoor activity ideas:

<http://familyfun.go.com/games/indoor-outdoor-games/specialfeature/summer-games-june/>

Special thanks to Jenn Kaufman, Clinical Supervisor at Family Service,
Early Intervention for her contribution to The LINK on early childhood and play.

ASSET DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
Strategies and Resources to Help Individuals
with Developmental Disabilities
Achieve Greater Economic Independence

June 19, 2009
Radisson Hotel
2081 Post Road
Warwick RI, 02886

SPACE STILL AVAILABLE – REGISTRATION EXTENDED

There are still a limited number of scholarships available for family members and/or individuals with disabilities that are interested in attending.

This full-day conference, which includes multiple breakout sessions and exhibits, provides information on strategies and resources to help people with developmental disabilities and their families to improve their financial futures and achieve greater economic independence.

Keynote Presenter – Michael Morris

Mr. Michael Morris is the Director of the National Disability Institute (NDI) in Washington, D.C. and the Chief Executive Officer for the Burton Blatt Institute at Syracuse University. He has over 20 years of experience in systems change activities to advance employment and economic independence for individuals with disabilities with the collaboration of government, the business community, and private Foundations.

BROCHURE & REGISTRATION FORM can be downloaded from

<http://www.ric.edu/sherlockcenter/publications/AssetDevelopmentBrochure.pdf>

(also available at www.sherlockcenter.org, click on “Conferences”)

Conference Sponsors Include:

Internal Revenue Service
John Hope Settlement House
National Disability Institute
Real Economic Impact Tour (REIT)
Office of Rehabilitation Services / DHS

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhodes to Independence / URI
RI Developmental Disabilities Council
RI Disability Law Center

This is a project of the RI Developmental Disabilities Network.

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council

Seeking to expand its membership~

The Rhode Island Developmental Disabilities Council (RIDDC) is one of three federally supported programs established in each state by the Congressional Developmental Disabilities Act. Here in Rhode Island, the RIDDC is joined by the RI Disability Law Center and the Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities at RI College. Collectively they are referred to as the Developmental Disabilities Network. The Network functions to increase the independence, productivity, inclusion, and community integration of people with developmental disabilities.

The RIDDC is comprised of men and women who have exceptional insight into the obstacles that confront people with disabilities throughout their lives. Most are people with developmental disabilities and their family members. Others are representatives of agencies and groups that work for people with disabilities. The Council accomplishes its mission through planning, evaluation, collaboration, education, research and advocacy.

To help the Council operate more efficiently, the group is broken down into committees that can operate as sub-groups to more effectively focus on set goals. Presently, the subcommittees meet once a month, while the full Council meets quarterly.

The Council is currently working to expand the number of parent members. Parents of children with disabilities are able to share compelling stories and experiences to support change and improvement in our programs, systems and legislature. The Council is looking for interested parents with emphasis placed on parents of young children with disabilities and parents who may have diverse ethnic, cultural and life experience backgrounds. Interested families can learn more by visiting the RIDDC website at

<http://www.riddc.org>

RI Parent Information Network (RIPIN) Family Fun Day

Saturday, August 1, 2009
Goddard Memorial State Park in Warwick
Field C, Site 3-8, rain or shine
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Family fun day is a free, fun-filled day for all families, including children and adults with special health care needs. The day includes food, activities, entertainment, and the chance to connect with community resources and each other in a safe, accepting environment.

Families who would like to attend or have questions should contact Sandra Rivera at 401.727.4144 or 800.464.3399, or srivera@ripin.org

Groundbreaking Position/Definition Released

National organizations collaborate on essentials of quality early childhood inclusion



April 2009

The Division for Early Childhood and the National Association for the Education of Young Children have recently approved a joint position statement that underscores their commitment to quality early childhood inclusion. **Early Childhood Inclusion: A Joint Position Statement of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** takes a historic step by providing a shared national definition of inclusion as *“the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society.”* The document, which was developed through a collaborative national process that was coordinated by the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion at the FPG Child Development Institute, represents the first time these two leading national organizations have collaborated on a joint product that is expected to have a widespread impact on the early childhood field.

A Summary of the Joint Position Statement of the Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Early Childhood Inclusion: A Summary

Background

Today an ever-increasing number of infants and young children with and without disabilities play and learn together in a variety of places—homes, early childhood programs, and neighborhoods, to name a few. Promoting development and belonging for every child is a widely held value among early education and intervention professionals and throughout our society. Early childhood inclusion is the term used to reflect these values and societal views. However, the lack of a shared national definition has created some misunderstandings about inclusion. The DEC/NAEYC joint position statement offers a definition of inclusion. It also includes recommendations for how the joint position statement can be used to improve early childhood services for all children.

Definition of Early Childhood Inclusion

Early childhood inclusion embodies the values, policies, and practices that support the right of every infant and young child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate in a broad range of activities and contexts as full members of families, communities, and society. The

desired results of inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities and their families include a sense of belonging and membership, positive social relationships and friendships, and development and learning to reach their full potential. The defining features of inclusion that can be used to identify high quality early childhood programs and services are access, participation, and supports.

What is meant by Access, Participation, and Supports?

Access – means providing a wide range of activities and environments for every child by removing physical barriers and offering multiple ways to promote learning and development.

Participation – means using a range of instructional approaches to promote engagement in play and learning activities, and a sense of belonging for every child.

Supports – refer to broader aspects of the system such as professional development, incentives for inclusion, and opportunities for communication and collaboration among families and professionals to assure high quality inclusion.



Division for Early Childhood of the
Council for Exceptional Children
27 Fort Missoula Road | Missoula, MT 59804
Phone 406.543.0872 | Fax 406.543.0887
Email dec@dec-sped.org | Web www.dec-sped.org

naeyc

National Association for the Education of Young Children
1509 16th Street NW | Washington, DC 20036-1426
Phone 202.232.8777 Toll-Free 800.424.2460 | Fax 202.328.1846
Email naeyc@naeyc.org | Web www.naeyc.org

Except taken from joint press release, *Division for Early Childhood (DEC) and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)* June 1, 2009.

The full position statement can be found on the [Division for Early Childhood](#) and [NAEYC](#) web sites

Learning Opportunities

Volume 3, Issue 2

Typical Development of Toddlers

Saturday, June 27, 2009
9:30 am – 12:30 pm
University of Rhode Island
Multicultural Center
Hardge Forum Room 101
Kingston, RI 02881

The workshop will focus on the development of toddlers, ages 16-36 months. Key discussion topics are social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development, early language and literacy, play, temperament and behavior. An emphasis on responsive care giving, developmental milestones and encouraging toddlers interests and discoveries will be presented.

Cost: \$20.00, includes light refreshments

Presented by The University of Rhode Island Office on Early Intervention Recruitment and Retention

For more information, or to register, call 401.874.4036 or e-mail eigrant@etal.uri.edu

Approved by the Rhode Island Department of Education for Professional Development Credit (PDC) and Rhode Island College for Continuing Education Units (CEU)

Circle of Parents Support Group Series

Presented by
The Rhode Island Parent Information Network
Family Voices Project

10:00 am – 11:30 am
First Monday of the month

July 6, 2009 *Open discussion*

August 3, 2009 *Open discussion*

September 14, 2009
(Second Monday due to Labor Day)
"Taking care of YOU: Healthy Eating Tips"

October 5, 2009
"Transition into Adulthood"

November 2, 2009
De-Stressing during the Holidays

December 7, 2009
Relaxation Techniques to use in the New Year

For more information, contact Support Group Facilitator Lisa Landry – Testa
401.444.8485

All workshops are held in the conference room at the CNDC in the George Clinic at RI Hospital, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903

Audiology Conference 2009 Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Effects on Hearing, Memory, and Cognition

October 13–26, 2009

A virtual conference on the web for audiologists and speech-language pathologists

This conference will provide access to pre-recorded lectures on a variety of topics related to traumatic brain injury, and then provide the opportunity to participate in live chat sessions with conference presenters to earn additional CEUs. Network with colleagues from around the world using the scheduled chats or discussion forums. Participants can access pre-recorded sessions at any time of day while the conference is in session.

[Register through the ASHA Online Store](#)

[Conference features](#)

Learning Opportunities

The 11th Annual Autism Summer Institute

Show Me the Evidence: Evidence-Based Practices for Supporting Students with ASD in Schools and Communities

August 10-13, 2009
University of New Hampshire,
Holloway Commons/MUB,
Durham, NH

The goal of the Autism Summer Institute is to provide strength-based perspectives about students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to improve the quality of education in inclusive settings. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to evaluate and select supports and strategies based on research evidence that will enhance the full participation of students with ASD in their schools and communities.

Who Should Attend:

The Autism Summer Institute is designed for, and will benefit, individuals with ASD and their families, teachers, para-professionals, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, school administrators, guidance counselors, psychologists, school-family educational teams, university students, and others.

Family and self-advocate scholarships may be available from several of our collaborators. For full details, [click here](#) or call 603.228.2084.

The Autism Summer Institute qualifies for 25 Staff Development Hours. Participants may earn 4 academic credits by registering for EDUC 757/857 in the Fall 2009 semester and attending the Autism Summer Institute (tuition and \$99 conference fee apply).

To register for UNH course credit, DO NOT continue with registration. Please contact the course instructor, Cheryl M. Jorgensen, Ph.D., at cheryl.jorgensen@unh.edu for more information and permission to register.

Presented by the Institute on Disability's [NH Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

Registration Fees:

Professionals: \$399
Parents, Full-Time Students, Self-Advocates: \$325
Students attending for credit: \$99 (requires permission and code to register)
Keynote(s) only: \$30 each
Groups: \$375 - Groups of three or more qualify for the discounted group rate (subject to verification)

[Download Brochure here](#)

The Autism Project of RI

The Nuts and Bolts of Running Social Thinking Programs and Teaching Beyond the Think Social! Curriculum

October 19-20
Johnson & Wales Inn
Seekonk, MA

Presenter: Michelle Garcia Winner, MA CCC-SLP, a pioneer in the field of social thinking, specializes in the treatment of individuals with social cognitive deficits. [More about the presenter.](#)

Conference will include an exhibit area for vendors and agencies working to support individuals and students with ASD.

Download the brochure for cost information and registration form here [Brochure](#)

2009 ASHA Convention

November 19–21, 2009

Ernest N. Morial
Convention Center
900 Convention Center Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70130

More information can be found on the ASHA website <http://asha.org>

Learning Opportunities

Dunn's Learning Differences Awareness Conference

October 24, 2009
Providence College
8:00 am -3:00 pm

Keynote: Dr. Eric Tridas
Dr. Tridas is the Director of the Tridas Center for Child Development in Tampa, FL and a Board Member of the International Dyslexia Association. Dr. Tridas is a board certified pediatrician who specializes in the diagnosis and management of neuro-developmental and behavioral problems in students of all ages.

Registration will begin on September 1, 2009.

For more information, visit <http://www.dunninstitute.org/>

Fragile X Society of Connecticut 2nd Annual Conference

Fragile X: What it is and Best Practices for the Treatment of Children and Adults

Saturday, September 12, 2009
UConn Health Center,
Farmington, CT

Presenter:
Dr. Randi Hagerman, UC Davis
M.I.N.D. Institute

For more information visit
www.fragilex.org

Autism and the SCERTS® Model

Next Generation Practices for Children & Their Families Autism Spectrum Disorders & Related Disabilities

November 4 – 6, 2009

Rhodes on the Pawtuxet
Cranston, RI

With Introductory and Advanced Implementation Trainings with SCERTS® Model Collaborators Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D. CCC-SLP & Amy Laurent, Ed.M, OTR/L
Early Bird discount ends October 3, 2009

To Register Online, Click Here
[| Cranston, RI - Early Bird \(\\$399\) \(until 10/3\) | Cranston RI - Reg Rate \(after 10/3\) \(\\$425\) | Cranston, RI - Team Rate \(4 or More\) \(\\$385 each\) | Cranston, RI - Parent \(not eligible ASHA CEUs\) \(\\$295\) | Cranston, RI - Student \(proof of Student Status\) \(\\$325\)](#)

Register by Mail - [Click Here](#) for pdf

25th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs & Their Families

October 15-18, 2009
Albuquerque, NM

The Division for Early Childhood is pleased to offer their 25th Annual International Conference on Young Children with Special Needs and their Families. This conference provides families with the opportunity to discover how the latest research translates into practice, mingle with the experts, see demonstrations of evidence-based intervention strategies, and develop the skills you need in your work for young children and their families.

This Year's Topic: Quality Inclusive Practices in a Diverse Society

Online Registration: Click [here](#)
Fax or Mail Registration: Click [here](#)

Local Support Groups for Families

Brain Injury Assoc of RI

Providence:

Families & Survivors

1st Wednesday of the Month

4:30pm-6:00pm

St. Joseph Hospital

Contact: Colleen Fitzsimmons RPT

401.456.4537

Warwick:

Families and Survivors

2nd Monday of the Month

6:15pm-7:45pm

Sargent Rehabilitation Center

401.886.6600

Cranston:

Families and Survivors

3rd Wednesday of the Month

6:00pm-7:30pm

Brain Injury Resource Center

925 Park Ave, Suite 8

888.824.8911 or 401.461.6599

Northern Rhode Island:

Families and Survivors

4th Tuesday of the Month

6:30pm-8:00pm

Rehab Hospital of RI,

North Smithfield,

401.766.0800, x5311

For more information call the Brain

Injury Assoc of RI at 461.6599 or

888.824.8911

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Parent Support Group for Families of Children with Special Health Care Needs

First Monday of each Month

10:00am-11:30am

CNDC - George Bldg., RI Hospital,

593 Eddy St., Providence

Grupo de Apoyo para Familias Hispanas con Niños que tienen Necesidades Especiales

Support Group for Families of
Children with Special Health Care
Needs in Spanish

Last Thursday of every Month

10:30am-12:00pm

Solutions CEDARR conference room
at Family Service,

134 Thurbers Ave, Providence

First Wednesday of every Month

5:00pm - 6:30pm

RIPIN conference room,

175 Main Street, Pawtucket

Fathers First

Individual support and information
for men caring for children with
special needs. Call RIPIN for more
information.

Young Moms Club

Last Thursday of every Month

5:00pm - 6:30 pm

Call RIPIN for meeting location.

RI Family to Family

Family to Family is a network
created by families for families of
children and adults with special needs.
They offer opportunities for families
to connect with one another to share
experiences, information, and/or
support. Family to Family of Rhode
Island is sponsored by Family Voices of
RI and Paul V. Sherlock Center on
Disabilities.

Go to www.rifamilytofamily.net to learn
more

For more information on any
RI Parent Information Network
support group, go to www.ripin.org,
or call Barbara Torres
at 401.727.4144 x161

Parents Helping Parents

Support for parents and families of
children and adolescents with
emotional, behavioral, psychiatric or
developmental health issues.

2nd Thursday of the month

6:30pm-8:00pm

Bradley Hospital, Pine Room

For more information call Chris
Brown 401.432.1205

Free babysitting available, must call in
advance 401.432.1205

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities and RI Department of Human Services

Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities
Rhode Island College
600 Mount Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908-1991

Phone: 401.456.8072
TDD: 401.456.8773



www.sherlockcenter.org

If you have something you
would like to disseminate
through The LINK, email us
at lbobrowski@ric.edu



The Paul V. Sherlock Center on Disabilities promotes membership of individuals with disabilities in school, work and community. Located at RI College, the Sherlock Center offers professional development and training opportunities for individuals, family members, educators, and professionals at all levels.

Informational resources include a lending resource library, topical newsletters and a variety of manuals and guides. Technical assistance is provided state-wide as resources permit. Visit the Sherlock Center website for information on initiatives, events, publications, and to access links to local and national disability resources.



This newsletter was developed in collaboration with the
Department of Human Services.